

# WEIKLE & Co.

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

June 30, 2015

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

DO NOT TELECOPY ORIGINAL

Received & Inspected  
JUL 01 2015  
FCC Mail Room

RE: WC Docket No. 14-58  
FCC Form 481 – Carrier Annual Reporting  
Ellerbe Telephone Company

Dear Secretary:

This FCC Form 481- Carrier Annual Reporting is being submitted on behalf of Ellerbe Telephone Company in accordance with FCC Rules 54.313 and 54.422. There are two copies of a Redacted – For Public Inspection version. In addition there is one copy with financial information marked as confidential information in accordance with a June 17, 2015 Protective Order, DA15-712. A Redacted – For Public Inspection version is also being filed via ECFS.

If there are any questions, I can be reached at 704.699.9451.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jerry Weikle

Jerry Weikle  
Consultant to Ellerbe Telephone Company

Attachments

cc: Charles Tyler, Telecommunications Access Policy Division (Two Confidential Copies)

No. of Copies rec'd 04/  
List ABCDE

151 SPRING STREET NW  
CONCORD, NC 28025-4749

JERRY L. WEIKLE  
President

jweikle@windstream.net  
704.699.9451

**FCC Form 481 - Carrier Annual Reporting  
Data Collection Form**

 FCC Form 481  
OMB Control No. 3060-0066/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

<010> Study Area Code	230478	REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION
<015> Study Area Name	ELLERBE TEL CO	
<020> Program Year	2016	Received & Inspected
<030> Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data	Jerry Weikle	JUL 01 2015
<035> Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line <030>	7047827738 ext.	FCC Mail Room
<039> Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line <030>	jweikle@windstream.net	

ANNUAL REPORTING FOR ALL CARRIERS		54.313 Completion Required	54.422 Completion Required
(check box when complete)			
<100> Service Quality Improvement Reporting	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<200> Outage Reporting (voice)	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<210> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <-- check box if no outages to report		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<300> Unfulfilled Service Requests (voice)	0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<310> Detail on Attempts (voice)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div> (attach descriptive document)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<320> Unfulfilled Service Requests (broadband)	0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<330> Detail on Attempts (broadband)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div> (attach descriptive document)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<400> Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (voice)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<410> Fixed	0.0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<420> Mobile	0.0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<430> Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (broadband)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<440> Fixed	0.0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<450> Mobile	0.0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<500> Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance	(check to indicate certification)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<510> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">230478NC510.pdf</div>	(attached descriptive document)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<600> Functionality in Emergency Situations	(check to indicate certification)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<610> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">230478NC610.pdf</div>	(attached descriptive document)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<700> Company Price Offerings (voice)	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<710> Company Price Offerings (broadband)	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<800> Operating Companies and Affiliates	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<900> Tribal Land Offerings (Y/N)?	<input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1000> Voice Services Rate Comparability Certification	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1010> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">230478NC1010.pdf</div>	(attach descriptive document)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1100> Certify whether terrestrial backhaul options exist (Yes or No)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> (if not, check to indicate certification)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1110>	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1200> Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Price Cap Carriers, Proceed to Price Cap Additional Documentation Worksheet</b>			
Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers			
<2000>	(check to indicate certification)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<2005>	(complete attached worksheet)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Rate of Return Carriers, Proceed to ROR Additional Documentation Worksheet</b>			
<3000>	(check to indicate certification)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<3005>	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**(100) Service Quality Improvement Reporting  
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481  
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	230478
<015>	Study Area Name	ELLERBE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jerry Weikle
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7047827738 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jweikle@windstream.net
<110>	Has your company received its ETC certification from the FCC?	(yes / no) <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
	If your answer to Line <110> is yes, do you have an existing §54.202(a) "5	
<111>	year plan" filed with the FCC?	(yes / no) <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>

If your answer to Line <111> is yes, then you are required to file a progress report, on line <112> delineating the status of your company's existing § 54.202(a) "5 year plan" on file with the FCC, as it relates to your provision of voice telephony service.

<112> Attach Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan or, in subsequent years, your annual progress report filed pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(1). If your company is a CETC which only receives frozen support, your progress report is only required to address voice telephony service.

230478NC112.pdf

Name of Attached Document

Please select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 112, contains a progress report on its five-year service quality improvement plan pursuant to §54.202(a). The information shall be submitted at the wire center level or census block as appropriate.

- <113> Maps detailing progress towards meeting plan targets
- <114> Report how much universal service (USF) support was received
- <115> How much (USF) was used to improve service quality and how support was used to improve service quality
- <116> How much (USF) was used to improve service coverage and how support was used to improve service coverage
- <117> How much (USF) was used to improve service capacity and how support was used to improve service capacity
- <118> Provide an explanation of network improvement targets not met in the prior calendar year.

Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Not Applicable



FCC Form 481  
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

[illegible]

OMB Control No. 3060-0926/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

<701>	Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date	1/1/2015
<702>	Single State-wide Residential Local Service Charge	15.14

Page 4







**(900) Tribal Lands Reporting  
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	230478
<015>	Study Area Name	ELLERBE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jerry Weikle
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7047827738 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jweikle@windstream.net

<910> Tribal Land(s) on which ETC Serves

<920> Tribal Government Engagement Obligation

Name of Attached Document

If your company serves Tribal lands, please select (Yes,No, NA) for each these boxes to confirm the status described on the attached document(s), on line 920, demonstrates coordination with the Tribal government pursuant to § 54.313(a)(9) includes:

- <921> Needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions.
- <922> Feasibility and sustainability planning;
- <923> Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner;
- <924> Compliance with Rights of way processes
- <925> Compliance with Land Use permitting requirements
- <926> Compliance with Facilities Siting rules
- <927> Compliance with Environmental Review processes
- <928> Compliance with Cultural Preservation review processes
- <929> Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing requirements.

Select Yes or No or Not Applicable



**(1100) No Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting  
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	230478
<015>	Study Area Name	ELLERBE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jerry Weikle
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7047827738 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jweikle@windstream.net

<1120> Please confirm whether terrestrial backhaul options exist within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g) (Yes, No).

<1130> Please select the appropriate response (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm the reporting carrier offers broadband service of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 kbps upstream within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g).

(1200) Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers

Lifeline

Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	230478
<015>	Study Area Name	ELLERBE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jerry Weikle
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7047827738 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jweikle@windstream.net

230478NC1210.pdf

<1210> Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans

Name of Attached Document

<1220> Link to Public Website

HTTP

"Please check these boxes below to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 1210, or the website listed, on line 1220, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.422(a)(2) annual reporting for ETCs receiving low-income support, carriers must annually report:

<1221> Information describing the terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers, ☒

<1222> Details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan, ☒

<1223> Additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan. ☒

**(2000) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation**

**Data Collection Form**

*Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers*

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	230478
<015>	Study Area Name	ELLERBE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	JERRY WEIKIE
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7047827738 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jweikie@windstream.net

Select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to note compliance as a recipient of Incremental Connect America Phase I support, frozen High Cost support, High Cost support to offset access charge reductions, and Connect America Phase II support as set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(b),(c),(d),(e). The information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

**Incremental Connect America Phase I reporting**

- <2010> 2nd Year Certification (47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)i)  
 <2011a> 3rd Year Certification (47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)ii)  
 <2011b> Attachment (47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)ii)

Name of Attached Document(s) Listing Required Information

**Price Cap Carrier Receiving Frozen Support Certification (47 CFR § 54.312(a))**

- <2012> 2013 Frozen Support Calculation (47 CFR § 54.313(c)(1))  
 <2013> 2014 Frozen Support Calculation (47 CFR § 54.313(c)(2))  
 <2014> 2015 Frozen Support Calculation (47 CFR § 54.313(c)(3))  
 <2015> 2016 and future Frozen Support Calculation (47 CFR § 54.313(c)(4))

**Price Cap Carrier Connect America ICC Support (47 CFR § 54.313(d))**

- <2016> Certification Support Used to Build Broadband

**Connect America Phase II Reporting (47 CFR § 54.313(e))**

- <2017> 3rd year Broadband Service Certification  
 <2018> 5th year Broadband Service Certification  
 <2019> Interim Progress Certification  
 <2020> Please check the box to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 2021, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313 (e)(3)(ii), as a recipient of CAF Phase II support shall provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.

- <2021> Interim Progress Community Anchor Institutions

Name of Attached Document(s) Listing Required Information



(8000) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation

FCC Form 481

Data Collection Form

OMB Control No. 3080-0086/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	230478
<015>	Study Area Name	ELLERBE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	JERRY Weikle
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7047827738 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jweikle@windstream.net

CHECK the boxes below to note compliance on its five year service quality plan (pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.202(a)) and, for privately held carriers, ensuring compliance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2). I further certify that the information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

(3010) Progress Report on 5 Year Plan  
Milestone Certification (47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(i))

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

(3011) Please check this box to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 3012 contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313 (f)(1)(ii), the carrier shall provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year. ☐

(3012) Community Anchor Institutions (47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(ii))

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

(3013) Is your company a Privately Held ROR Carrier (47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2))

(Yes/No)

88

(3014) If yes, does your company file the RUS annual report

(Yes/No)

Please check these boxes to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 3017, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2) compliance requires:

(3015) Electronic copy of their annual RUS reports (Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers)

☒

(3016) Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows

☒

(3017) If the response is yes on line 3014, attach your company's RUS annual report and all required documentation

230478NC3017.pdf

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

(3018) If the response is no on line 3014, Is your company audited?

(Yes/No)

00

If the response is yes on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission, on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:

(3019) Either a copy of their audited financial statement; or (2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications ☐

(3020) Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows ☐

(3021) Management letter and audit opinion issued by the independent certified public accountant that performed the company's financial audit ☐

If the response is no on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission, on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:

(3022) Copy of their financial statement which has been subject to review by an independent certified public accountant; or 2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers, ☐

(3023) Underlying information subjected to a review by an independent certified public accountant ☐

(3024) Underlying information subjected to an officer certification. ☐

(3025) Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows ☐

(3026) Attach the worksheet listing required information

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

(3000) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation (Continued)

FCC Form 481

Data Collection Form

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010> Study Area Code	230478
<015> Study Area Name	ELLERBE TEL CO
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<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jerry Weikle
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7047827738 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jweikle@windetream.net

Financial Data Summary

(3027) Revenue	1222473
(3028) Operating Expenses	1545706
(3029) Net Income	308929
(3030) Telephone Plant In Service(TPIS)	8929306
(3031) Total Assets	16677609
(3032) Total Debt	1305360
(3033) Total Equity	14128671
(3034) Dividends	0

## REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

Certification - Reporting Carrier Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010> Study Area Code	230478
<015> Study Area Name	ELLERBE TEL CO
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<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jerry Weikle
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7047827738 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jweikle@windstream.net

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF THE REPORTING CARRIER IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTING ON ITS OWN BEHALF:

<b>Certification of Officer as to the Accuracy of the Data Reported for the Annual Reporting for CAF or LI Recipients</b>	
I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual reporting requirements for universal service support recipients; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported on this form and in any attachments is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier: ELLERBE TEL CO	
Signature of Authorized Officer: CERTIFIED ONLINE	Date 06/30/2015
Printed name of Authorized Officer: dan bennett	
Title or position of Authorized Officer: president	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer: 9106522221 ext.	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: 230478	Filing Due Date for this form: 07/01/2015
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	



## REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

Certification - Agent / Carrier Data Collection Form		FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0619 July 2013
<010> Study Area Code	230478	
<015> Study Area Name	ELLERBE TEL CO	
<020> Program Year	2016	
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jerry Weikle	
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7047827738 ext.	
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jweikle@windstream.net	

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF AN AGENT IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE CARRIER'S BEHALF:

Certification of Officer to Authorize an Agent to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I certify that (Name of Agent) _____ is authorized to submit the information reported on behalf of the reporting carrier. I also certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual data reporting requirements provided to the authorized agent; and, to the best of my knowledge, the reports and data provided to the authorized agent is accurate.	
Name of Authorized Agent: _____	
Name of Reporting Carrier: _____	
Signature of Authorized Officer: _____	Date: _____
Printed name of Authorized Officer: _____	
Title or position of Authorized Officer: _____	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer: _____	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: _____	Filing Due Date for this form: _____
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AUTHORIZED AGENT:

Certification of Agent Authorized to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I, as agent for the reporting carrier, certify that I am authorized to submit the annual reports for universal service support recipients on behalf of the reporting carrier; I have provided the data reported herein based on data provided by the reporting carrier; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported herein is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier: _____	
Name of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: _____	
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: _____	Date: _____
Printed name of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: _____	
Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: _____	
Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: _____	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: _____	Filing Due Date for this form: _____
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

Attachments

Ellerbe Telephone

Annual Update 2015 - Initial Five Year Service Quality Improvement Plan

For the Calendar Years 2015-2019

Line 112

### **Discussion**

Ellerbe Telephone is an ETC designated by the North Carolina Utilities Commission and is submitting its initial five year service quality improvement plan (Plan) as required by 47 CFR § 54.313(a)(1) and 54.202(a)(1)(ii). Ellerbe Telephone is an incumbent carrier serving a single exchange in the state of North Carolina, with        access lines served as of 12/31/2013 and        access lines served as of 12/31/2014. Ellerbe Telephone is a rate-of-return (RoR) regulated carrier.

The five year plan reflected last year represented Ellerbe Telephone's ongoing efforts to expand high quality, reasonably-priced broadband services throughout its service area. Last year Ellerbe Telephone generated a five-year plan in compliance with the Commission's rules.

The Plan presented included expenditures not directly tied to "improvements or upgrades" of Ellerbe Telephone's network, such as amounts for the maintenance and upkeep of existing telecommunications plant. In order for the Commission to accurately consider the capital and operating expenditures as related to and supported by the federal universal service programs, these types of costs are critical for such an understanding.

### **Initial Five Year Service Quality Improvement and Investment Plan**

Ellerbe Telephone's service quality improvement and investment plan consisted of two major components: (1) capital expenditures it forecasted were necessary to meet the voice and broadband public interest obligations as adopted by the Commission, state service quality and network build out requirements, and general upkeep and maintenance of its network; and (2) operating expenditures it forecasted were necessary to meet the same obligations.

As shown on the following pages, Ellerbe Telephone's plan is to place additional fiber in its distribution route to serve homes and businesses. This will allow customers to receive a more reliable service and faster broadband speeds. Ellerbe Telephone will replace its current TDM based switch with a softswitch to provide more reliable services. Ellerbe Telephone will work to maintain its network in order to keep it operating efficiently and to avoid problems from impacting customers.

### **Universal Service Support Received**

From January through the end of March, 2015, Ellerbe received a total of        in high cost universal service support (USF). This was comprised of        of Interstate Common Line Support (ICLS) support and        of Connect America Fund Intercarrier Compensation (ICC) support.

### **Universal Service Support Uses and 5-Year Plan Progress**

Ellerbe has been working on maintaining and upgrading its network in accordance with the principles of universal service. There was one capital project that was forecasted to start during the first half of 2015 with a budgeted amount of        . In addition        in operating expenses had been budgeted for



2015. The timing of some capital projects has been changed and one project scheduled to start in 2015 was replaced with a project having a greater need, the replaced project has been shifted to 2016. Ellerbe will continually provide service as requested to new residential and business structures within its service territory. Ellerbe uses the USF it receives for general maintenance and to improve service quality, coverage and capacity of its current copper and fiber plant.

#### **Capital Expense**

The capital project budgeted was a fiber to the home project scheduled to start by the end of January and be completed before the start of the third quarter 2015 to serve an estimated        people. This project to place fiber to the Derby area has been replaced with a fiber to be placed to a different area called Firetower. The start was pushed out to June 1 and is expected to be completed by year end or close to year end. The change was due to several factors including unexpected customer demand and to address a lack of redundancy for two remotes.

Through the end of May about        in capital dollars had been booked. The majority of capital dollars will be booked as a project nears completion or even after it is completed.

As stated above, there have been some changes to the remaining capital projects on the initial 5-year plan.

#### **Operating Expense**

Through the end of March about        had been spent out of the        budgeted. Looking at other expense accounts not included in the original 5-year plan, through the end of March more than        has been spent on maintaining or improving the network to serve customers. This is slightly less than the USF received by Ellerbe for the same period.

#### **Maps**

A map of Ellerbe's service area is attached. Ellerbe Telephone currently is able to provide 4 mbps/1 mbps to most customers. There are some pockets of customers that may not be able to receive 4 mbps/1 mbps on a consistent basis because of longer loop lengths and older equipment. These areas are being addressed with fiber deployments and with maintenance functions.

#### **Considerations**

The investment and service quality improvement plans discussed above were generated, in part, to meet or exceed the broadband public interest obligations adopted by the Commission:

- Speed - at least 4 mbps downstream and 1 mbps upstream
- Latency - 100mS or less, sufficient for real-time applications
- Capacity - Unlimited capacity per month
- As an RoR - regulated carrier, Ellerbe Telephone is required pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(i) to provide broadband service at 4 mbps/1 mbps upon reasonable request and within a reasonable timeframe. Ellerbe Telephone currently is able to provide 4 mbps/1 mbps to the majority of customers now. Most customers are able to receive higher speeds upon request.
- Ellerbe Telephone determines into which parts of its network are feasible to upgrade and increase capacity by analyzing relevant factors such as population, demand, costs, likely revenues, regulatory requirements, and availability of work force and materials.

230478NC112

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MAP

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**PART A - PROJECT LIST FOR 2015-2019**

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Study Area Code 230478  
 Study Area Name EllerbeTelephone Company

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Part B: 5-Year Proposed Capital Expenditures and Operating Expenses

(1) Use the chart below to break out the regulated portion of the cost/expense on a per-year basis

Please note that the 5-Year Plan should include regulated plant/expenses only.

Regulated Capital Expenditure (CapEX) Projections								
Account	Description	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total Projected CapEx 2015-2019	2015 Status
2111 & 2121	Land & Building	\$						
2112	Vehicles	\$						
2122-2124	Support Assets	\$						
2210	Switching Equipment	\$						
2232	Circuit Equipment	\$						
2410	Cable & Wire Facilities	\$						
1220	Materials & Supplies	\$						
	Total Capital Expenditures	\$						

Regulated Operating Expenditure (OpEx) Projections								
Account	Operating Expenses	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total Operating Expenses 2015- 2019	2015 Status
6110-6120	General Support Maintenance	\$						
6210	Switching Maintenance	\$						
6230	COE Transmission Maintenance	\$						
6410	Cable & Wire Facilities	\$						
6530	Non-Specific (Testing, Plant Op., Engineering)	\$						
6561-2110	General Support Depreciation	\$						
6561-2210	Switching Depreciation	\$						
6561-2230	Circuit Equip Depreciation	\$						
6561-2410	Cable & Wire Depreciation	\$						
6610-6620	Customer Operations	\$						
6711-6720	Corporate Operations	\$						
7240	Ad Valorem Expense	\$						
	Total Operating Expenses	\$						

NOTE: Increased expenses for each year.



Ellerbe Telephone  
Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules Compliance Explanation  
Line 510

**Certification**

Ellerbe Telephone Company certifies that it complies with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules for both voice services and broadband services.

**Service Quality**

Ellerbe Telephone Company is regulated by the North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC). The NCUC has service quality rules in effect that Ellerbe must comply with for voice services and the rules are found in NCUC Chapter 9, Rule R9-8. The NCUC does not have rules in place regarding broadband service quality.

Here is a link to Chapter 9 rules located on the NCUC website:

<http://www.ncuc.net/ncrules/Chapter09.pdf>

Rule R9-8 requires that certain service objectives be met and that company results be reported to the NCUC on a quarterly basis within 45 days after the end of each quarter. Ellerbe has set up procedures and processes to remain in compliance with the Rule R9-8 objectives. This includes maintaining procedures and processes to record monthly results, tabulate them, and report them to the NCUC.

During the calendar year 2014, Ellerbe met all required NCUC service quality objectives. The NCUC objectives are listed below:

**Rule R9-8. Service objectives for regulated local exchange telephone companies and competing local providers (CLPs).**

(a) Service Objectives. Each regulated local exchange telephone company and CLP shall perform and provide service in accordance with the following uniform service objectives:

<i>Measure No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Objective</i>
1	Intraoffice completion rate	99% or more
2	Interoffice completion rate	98% or more
3	EAS transmission loss	95% or more between 2 and 10 dB
4	EAS trunk noise	95% or more 30 dBm or less
5	Operator "0" answertime	90% or more of calls answered within 10 seconds or ASA of 6 seconds
6	Directory assistance answertime	85% or more of calls answered within 10 seconds or ASA of 6 seconds

7	Business office answertime	ASA of 30 seconds
8	Repair service answertime	ASA of 30 seconds
9	Initial customer trouble reports	4.75 or less per 100 total access lines
10	Repeat reports	1.0 report or less per 100 total access lines
11	Out-of-service troubles cleared within 24 Hours	95% or more
12	Regular service orders completed within 5 working days	90% or more
13	New service installation appointments not met for Company reasons	5% or less
14	New service held orders not completed within 30 days	0.1% or less of total access lines

#### **Consumer Protection**

Ellerbe Telephone Company is committed to maintain the privacy of customer information. In addition to protecting personal information the company is obligated to protect information on how customers use their services. Ellerbe Telephone Company follows all requirements the FCC has mandated concerning Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI). As required, Ellerbe files annual CPNI compliance certifications with the FCC by March 1 each year.

Ellerbe Telephone Company also has an Identity Theft Prevention Program in place to comply with Red Flag Identity Theft prevention rules. This program ensures that no information pertaining to our customers is compromised and that information from new customers is accurate and does not represent a stolen identity.

There are no NCUC or state rules in place for broadband consumer protection. Ellerbe Telephone Company does follow federal laws relating to broadband service. Ellerbe Telephone Company does publicly disclose broadband terms and prices for customers.

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Ellerbe Telephone  
Functionality in Emergency Situations  
Line 610

### Backup/Emergency Power

Ellerbe Telephone's main Central Office has both battery backup and permanent mounted generator backup. When commercial power fails, batteries carry all central office equipment until the generator comes on within one minute of power failure. If the generator fails to come on, batteries can carry the central office for 12-16 hours.

One remote switch has both battery backup and permanent mounted generator backup. When commercial power fails, batteries carry all central office equipment until the generator comes on within one minute of power failure. If the generator fails to come on, batteries can carry the equipment for 16-18 hours.

Both generators at the main Central Office and the remote switch are propane powered and can run for 5-7 days on their fuel supply.

All small remote switches have battery backup that can carry the equipment for 6-10 hours in the event of commercial power failure. They also have ports where a portable generator will be connected to supply power to the remote. These portable generators are gasoline powered and can run for 4-6 hours on their fuel supply. During the event of an emergency, these portable generators are resupplied with fuel on a regular basis.

### Network Facilities

Ellerbe is located in the Wilmington, NC LATA and connects to an AT&T Central Office in Rockingham, NC to connect to the Laurinburg, NC tandem. Ellerbe has redundant fiber facilities that connect to the Rockingham office that are on different geographic routes. During times of an emergency or damage to facilities, traffic is rerouted over redundant facilities as needed.

### Priority Line Assignments

Ellerbe's Central Office switch is a Genband DMS-10. This switch is configured with a certain number "priority" line assignments in each line assignment group. Ellerbe assigns local municipal, fire, EMS, and rescue telephone numbers to these priority line assignment positions. Should the switch get in an overload status because of a traffic spike, it automatically prioritizes these positions to remain in service before non-priority line assignments.

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(710) Broadband Price Offerings  
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481  
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	230478
<015>	Study Area Name	ELLERBE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jerry Weikle
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7047827738 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jweikle@windstream.net

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